

AUSTRIA-HUNGARY ASKED TO DISAVOW SINKING OF ANCONA

United States Also Demands Assurances That The Act Will Not Be Repeated; That the Submarine's Commander Be Punished and Reparation Be Made for American Lives--New Note Comes as Surprise.

Washington, Dec. 8.—The United States has sent to Austria-Hungary a note asking for a disavowal of the submarine attack on the Italian liner Ancona, assurances that such an act will not be repeated, some degree of punishment for the commander of the submarine and reparation for the American lives lost.

The communication started by cable yesterday from the state department to Ambassador Frederick C. Penfield at Vienna, who was instructed to hand it to the Austro-Hungarian minister of foreign affairs, Baron Burian. Word of the delivery of the note had not been received by the department to-night.

NOTE "FRIENDLY BUT FIRM"

Friendly but firm, it is said, characterized the document which is understood to make a particular point of prompt assurance for the future safety of American lives. Austria-Hungary has never informed the United States whether the commanders of its submarines had been given instructions similar to those which the German government gave to its commanders after the Lusitania tragedy. It is understood the note alludes to this. It is to the charge that shells from the submarine killed or wounded some passengers on the Ancona after she had halted, and asked for an explanation on that point.

In dispatching the note, Secretary Lansing acted with the approval of and after consulting with President Wilson. The document, described as being comparatively brief and decidedly vigorous in tone, was so drafted as to attempt a settlement of the controversy at once, without bringing on a series of communications, such as followed the sinking of the Lusitania.

Official circles are said to be of the opinion that the situation is one that calls for grave consideration, the state of affairs having become more complicated since the note was dispatched. It is reported that American oil carrying vessels in the Mediterranean, presumably by Austrian submarines.

WASHINGTON SURPRISED

News that the note had been sent came as a complete surprise to official Washington generally, the reports which emanated from the state department early in the week being that no positive and corroborated evidence as to what actually had occurred when the Ancona went down had been received. It was said that the reports received were fragmentary, conflicting or contradictory.

And that until a reply to the inquiries submitted by the state department, it was probable that no communication would be sent to Vienna. To-night it was suggested in some quarters that information of a most conclusive nature had come to Secretary Lansing probably late Monday night and it had been decided then that the protest should be forwarded immediately. Whether Ambassador Penfield had transmitted the reply to the Vienna foreign office to the list of queries submitted by the United States could not be ascertained.

The belief prevails here that the statement had received answers of some sort to the queries. In the inquiry Austria-Hungary was asked whether a warning shot had been fired before the ship was sunk, whether time was given the passengers to reach a place of safety and whether any shots were fired at the ship after she had stopped. The Austro-Hungarian embassy here had not been advised to-night that the inquiry had been answered.

DR. GREIL'S TESTIMONY

The Ancona was sunk in the Mediterranean on November 8 while bound from Naples for New York. The testimony of a native American survivor before the department is in a deposition by Dr. Cecilia Greil of New York, which asserts specifically that the liner was torpedoed while the men, women and children in the cabin and stowage were scrambling to get into the small boats. The department has been inclined not to accept this statement as positive proof unless corroborated was received from some source.

Much weight was given, however, to what Dr. Greil had to say. Her testimony was considered of so much importance that she was taken to Rome, where she told her story to Ambassador Tappan.

After the inquiry of the United States had been before the Vienna foreign office several days, Ambassador Penfield reported that more time was desired to frame a reply. Late last week Secretary Lansing instructed the ambassador to urge a prompt reply.

AMICABLE REPLY POSSIBLE

The American note, it is understood, sets forth that the United States cannot believe that the commanders of Austrian submarines have committed an alleged act of lawlessness except under a misapprehension of orders issued by the Austrian naval authorities. It is declared that under methods of warfare such as those employed in the sinking of the Ancona it is virtually impossible, under such circumstances, to remain within the rules of fairness, justice and humanity. The principles of humanity and justice

ARMIES FLEEING INTO GREECE MUST LEAVE COUNTRY

Reported That Greek Cabinet Comes to Decision—Central Powers Must Not Cross Boundary.

Berlin, Dec. 8, via London, Dec. 8, 1:30 a. m.—The Associated Press interview with King Constantine of Greece is the feature of the day in the German newspapers. All the Berlin papers this morning headed their columns with the interview, and great significance is attached to King Constantine's declaration regarding the necessity of retiring allied troops passing direct through Greece without stop and re-embarking at Saloniki.

Similar news has been received from Bucharest in the form of a reported decision of the Greek cabinet and general staff, which it is said, is to be communicated as a note to the foreign powers. According to the version of this note circulated by the Bucharest newspaper, Minerva, the note declares that Serbian troops fleeing through Greek territory will be disarmed and Anglo-French headquarters at Saloniki will be required to transport troops retreating before the enemy upon Greek territory immediately from Greece by way of Saloniki, with their entire equipment and supplies. The Greek government requests the central powers not to cross the Greek frontier in pursuit of the retreating forces, Greece undertaking to guarantee that they depart from Greece.

The whole population of Saloniki, it is announced, enthusiastically greeted the victorious troops of occupation. In Dibra, Austro-Hungarian prisoners were found who had been in days without bread. Eighty of them were in a serious state and had to be given medical attention.

Berlin, Dec. 8, (wireless to Sayville).—According to Constantinople despatches to the Frankfurter Zeitung, says the Overseas News agency, "the Turkish victories in Mesopotamia had a speedy influence upon the attitude of the entire Persian Gulf district. Arabian tribes which previously had been invariably loyal to Great Britain have now wavered about, it is declared, the unrest being particularly noticeable in southern Persia."

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BULGARIANS AND GERMANS NEARING THE GREEK BORDER

Forces Threaten to Outflank the Anglo-French Troops—Bulgars Attack Allies' Right Wing near Strumitza.

Campaign Plans Not Clear

Hint That Allies May Abandon Balkan Enterprise—Gallipoli Offensive Does Not Materialize—An Austrian Submarine Sinks Italian Cruiser.

London, Dec. 8.—The Balkan situation is developing rapidly. The Germans and Bulgarians have reached Kessan, on the Greek border, two miles south of Monastir, thus threatening to outflank the Anglo-French forces, while Bulgars, who are also supposed to be supported by Germans, have attacked the allies' extreme right wing near Strumitza.

Under this pressure the French have withdrawn from the Krivopal salt and salt works, and have taken a position at Demirkapou in a deep gorge about 20 miles from the Greek frontier, through which the Saloniki railway runs. Here they were attacked by the Bulgarians, who, according to the French reports, were repulsed.

The plans of neither the allies nor the Germans are yet quite clear, but apparently the Germans are determined on crushing the small number of troops which went to the assistance of the Serbians and which has been and is still being reinforced. The retirement by the allies to Demirkapou has led to the report that they intended to abandon the Italian enterprise entirely, but the continued landing of troops at Saloniki would seem to deny any such intention, while there is a very strong military opinion here that Saloniki should be held as a base for future operations in the Near East.

There is little news from the other fronts. The Germans have scored a minor success in the morning, and secured a trench about 50 yards of a French trench part of which, however, has been regained; the British have received reinforcements at Kut-el-Amara, where they are making their stand after the retreat from Mesopotamia and the Italians, who for the past two weeks have been on the offensive, are now engaged in meeting the Austrian counter-attacks.

The expected offensive by the allies in Gallipoli apparently did not materialize, while throughout Russia the winter weather has put a stop to all but small ventures.

Vienna, Dec. 8, via London, Dec. 12.—An official statement issued to-night says: "One of our submarines on the morning of the 5th sank a small Italian cruiser with two funnels off Valona (Albania)."

London, Dec. 8.—Eleven officers and 27 men of the British steamer Helmsmuller have been picked up, it is announced. The Italian steamer Dimis (?) and the Italian bark Pietro Lofaro have been sunk.

There has been no previous information that the steamer Helmsmuller may have been sunk, presumably by a submarine. She is listed as a vessel of 4,111 tons gross.

The steamer Dimis is not listed in available shipping records.

London, Dec. 8.—The British steamer Ignis has been sunk. The crew have been rescued.

Available shipping registers contain no records of such a steamer as the Ignis.

ASSAULTED WOMAN.

Castleton Man Charged with Fracturing His Mother-in-Law's Skull.

Rutland, Dec. 8.—Robert Davis of Castleton, a slate worker, was arrested to-day by Deputy Sheriff Carl A. Beach of Castleton on a warrant charging assault upon Mrs. Helen Bowtell of Castleton, his mother-in-law, aged 50. Davis was lodged in the county jail for hearing to-morrow in municipal court at Fair Haven.

At three o'clock this morning Mrs. Bowtell, who was sleeping at her own home, with her daughter, Mrs. Robert Davis, from whom the man under arrest has been separated for two weeks because of jealousy, was awakened by the sound of some person moving about her room. She started to leave her bed to investigate when she was struck a blow with some heavy weapon, presumably a club. She warded this attack off partly with one hand but a second blow struck her over the right temple and caused a fracture of the skull which rendered her unconscious.

It is believed that Davis, if he were the man in the room, intended to attack his wife but in the darkness mistook his mother-in-law for her. Mrs. Davis was occupying the lack of the bed. She did not hear the man who attacked her mother speak and by the time she had left her bed he had escaped. Investigation showed that he had entered the house by prying open a window.

State's Attorney C. V. Foulton went early this morning to Castleton to investigate. Suspicion at once became fastened upon Davis because of the strained relations between him and his wife and the fact that he was absent from his boarding house last night until four o'clock this morning. He is uncommunicative.

R. H. Seelye of Castleton, who attended Mrs. Bowtell, says she will recover.

Victory for Villa.

Douglas, Ariz., Dec. 8.—After a sharp engagement General Jose Rodriguez and his Villa army occupied Fronteras south of Agua Prieta, to-day, driving southward Carranza forces under General P. Elias Calles. Rodriguez burned several bridges between Esquiata and Fronteras, thus severing Calles' railroad communication with Agua Prieta, opposite here.

The capture of Fronteras places Rodriguez again between two Carranza forces and gives him control of the railroad running between Agua Prieta and Nacozari. The garrison at Agua Prieta once more was placed in readiness for attack.

HAPPENINGS IN VT. NEWS BY COUNTIES

ADDISON COUNTY

MIDDLEBURY.

Mrs. Bert Rivers has returned to Burlington after 10 days at the home of her brother, Arthur Fitzpatrick—Miss Genevieve Elmore, who has been visiting at the home of her parents, Mr. and Mrs. Horace Elmore, has returned to Poughkeepsie, N. Y., where she has been on a visit for a few weeks—Mr. and Mrs. Howard Moulton of Washington, D. C., are in this vicinity to visit relatives and friends—George McCaughlin has returned from Telederosa, N. Y.—Prof. L. R. Perkins has returned from Montpelier—Mark Casey has returned from Rutland, where he has been to visit relatives and friends—The Rev. and Mrs. Roy H. Whitcomb and two children have returned from Boston, where they have spent two weeks.

Thomas Bullard, who has taken the job of lumbering at North Fayston, which will last till next spring, started for that place Monday. He was accompanied by Rollin Hiler and Edward Bennett of Middlebury and has a large gang of men already engaged there—Carl Sears, a young man of this village, had his left arm broken at his wrist while at work Monday running a circular saw at the factory of the Vermont Shade Roller at Vergennes—Hebert Newton has gone to Noyan Junction for a two weeks' visit—Leslie Dwyer of this village, while chopping in the Holland swamp in Cornwall cut a gash in his right foot so that three stitches had to be taken to close it. He was then brought to his home in this village—The Gorham Brothers are making some extensive repairs on the Vermont property which they recently purchased—N. S. Poole went to Albany for an operation—On his nose—Joseph W. Calhoun has returned from Oswego, N. Y., where he has been for 10 days to visit his daughter, Mrs. M. R. Burt—Miss Mable Blais has returned from Brandon—George McCaughlin has returned from Telederosa, N. Y., where he has spent a week—Mrs. J. W. Kelley has gone to Perthshire to visit her daughter, Mrs. Avery—Monday, market day, eggs brought 32 to 34 cents and butter 25 to 26 cents—Mrs. Edward Goodwin and daughter, Mrs. Damon Champagne, have gone to Montreal, where they will visit for 10 days—Miss Julia Carl of North Pleasant street left town for Colorado Springs, Colo., where she will spend some time.

Mrs. Elizabeth E. Dewey, widow of Joseph E. Dewey, who has made her home with her brother, Henry Hammond, on South Pleasant street, died very suddenly at 10:30 o'clock Tuesday morning at the age of 80 years. Mrs. Dewey was down street Saturday. She was at the breakfast table in the morning and seemed to feel as well as usual for a woman of her age, but after breakfast she complained of a headache and a doctor was called. The cause of death was apoplexy. She is survived by one brother, Henry Hammond, with whom she lived, and a son, Dr. W. A. Dewey of Ann Arbor, Mich. The funeral will be held at 1:30 o'clock Wednesday afternoon at 139 o'clock.

Mark Turner has returned from Forestville, where he has been for a few days closing up his summer home—Bushnell Smith, who has been for some time at New Haven, Conn., and later in Vergennes, is visiting at his parents' home—The Misses Nellie R. Pearson and Delia Abbott of Springfield are here to visit relatives.

A meeting of the William P. Russell Circle, Ladies of the G. A. R., was held Tuesday night at the home of Mrs. Edwin E. Jones on Water street. Mrs. Jones being president of the local circle. The annual inspection of the circle was made. The president of the State department, Mrs. M. Parker of Huntington, and the department inspector, Clara Rock of Northfield, were here to conduct the proceedings. There was a large number of the local circle present. Refreshments were served. Remarks were made by Inspector Rock and Commander Charles R. Voutt, commander, James M. Tracy, and Walter W. Martin, past commanders of the local Russell Circle. President Parker and Inspector Rock went Wednesday to Essex, where they are to inspect the circle in that town—Burt L. Alden, a former resident, who has been visiting here for a few days, returned Wednesday to Brandon—Wednesday being the feast of the Immaculate Conception masses were said at St. Mary's church at five o'clock and eight o'clock in the morning, with evening services at 7:30—Mrs. Hattie Strong is in Castleton—Frank A. Armstrong and sister, Miss Mary C. Armstrong, of Syracuse, N. Y., are visiting in town—The federated fair opened in the town hall Tuesday afternoon at five o'clock and continued during the evening. It will continue through Friday and this evening—Mrs. Wilber Tolson of Middlebury, Mass., is visiting at the home of Mr. and Mrs. C. A. Lyman—Denzil Gavin has returned from Albany, N. Y.—Lewis Bolte and sister, who have been visiting in Troy, N. H., for a few weeks, have returned home—The agricultural extension school being held in the Grange hall will continue until Saturday. The attendance thus far though not large has been regular. One change has been made in the program. The Wednesday evening program will be given Friday evening in connection with the grange meeting. For this program the grange opens its doors to the public and all are invited. The program for the remainder of the week is as follows: Thursday morning, line demonstration; afternoon, barn repairs and clean milk demonstration, drainage demonstration, "Principles and Methods of Breeding"; Friday forenoon, seed selection, testing and treatment demonstration—M. T. Butterfield has sold his residence on South street to Professor Perkins.

VERGENNES.

The Panton corner school will be closed for the winter and the pupils will be carried to the South school. Miss Conant, who taught the corner school, has been transferred to the Sand Road school to take the place made vacant by the resignation of Mrs. Rogers.

The ladies' night and the venison supper given by Pierpont Lodge, Knights of Pythias, at their rooms Friday evening was well attended. Covers were laid for over 60 people. The venison was furnished by a party consisting of Arthur W. Norton, Dr. C. H. Cole, H. W. Day, Dr. P. M. Rogers, W. W. Bristol and L.

PRESIDENT SAYS REPUBLICANS' ONLY ISSUE IS TARIFF

Inform the Democratic National Committee That Democracy Is Certain to Win at the Next Election.

SILENT ABOUT PRESIDENCY

"Anyone Who Tells You Our Constructive Work Has Not Started an Irresistible Movement," Says President, "Is Talking through His Hat."

Washington, Dec. 8.—President Wilson told members of the democratic national committee at a luncheon in the state dining-room of the White House to-day that the republicans had no issue for the next campaign except the tariff and that democracy was certain to win.

"Our constructive work has started an irresistible movement which cannot be stopped," he declared. "Anyone who tells you otherwise is talking through his hat."

Mr. Wilson said nothing to indicate whether he would again be a candidate for the presidency.

Throughout his talk, which dealt with subjects ranging from democratic chances of victory to features of the "isolated" life of a chief executive, the President's speech was informal. Talking his place at the head of the table he thrust his hands into his trousers pockets, cast aside what he termed his "dress parade" language, and talked freely and confidentially.

Democrats left the White House in buoyant spirits, declaring that his optimism had inspired them with new confidence. It was the first time, committee-men said, that their body had been received as a whole in the White House. They expressed regret that the text of the President's speech would not be given out as they regarded it as a vigorous campaign argument.

At the outset the President said he wanted the members to feel that they were a part of a big family, of which he was a member. He asked whether anyone present could suggest any campaign argument other than the tariff which the democratic opposition could advance, and the committee men shook their heads. Nobody knew at this time, he added, what sort of a tariff measure must be framed to meet changing conditions resulting from the war.

Discussing parties and policies generally, the President insisted that the democratic view was that the majority rule, while that of their opponents, was that a "board of trustees" should act for the people.

On the Mexican problem he said this same majority rule should apply in Mexico as well as in this country, without regard to the wishes of persons residing in other countries who hold Mexican property. He expressed the belief that in due time peace would come in Mexico when the people were thoroughly tired of raising disturbances.

The President found unity, the leaders declared to-night, rumors of threatened breaches between friends of Fred R. Lynch, the Minnesota committeeman, and Chairman William F. McCombs, having been promptly disposed of.

Mr. McCombs and most of the other committeemen left for their homes to-night. The chairman will name the convention committee on arrangements this week and within a month it will hold its first meeting in St. Louis.

FIRE AT WILLIAMS.

Thompson Chemical Laboratory Destroyed at a Loss of \$100,000.

Williamstown, Mass., Dec. 7.—Fire early to-day totally destroyed the Thompson Chemical Laboratory of Williams College, a three-story brick structure, loss of which is estimated at \$100,000. Brainerd Mears, assistant professor of chemistry, and Cornelius Brown, an assistant, were asleep on the third floor, but they escaped. The fire started from spontaneous combustion, according to college authorities. A valuable library, a quantity of metals and chemicals which, it is said, cannot be replaced on account of the European war, were destroyed.

DEFICIT OF \$567,000,000

In the 1914-1915 Budget Just Closed.

Rome, Dec. 8.—In a statement before the Chamber of Deputies to-day the minister of the treasury, Paolo Carcano, said that the budget of 1914-15 had been closed with a deficit of \$567,000,000. The budget of 1915-16 showed a surplus of \$24,400,000, taking into account the war loans emitted. But, added the minister, the surplus was much below the amount necessary for the expenditures responsible for the continuation of the war from the end of December to the end of June. Therefore it was necessary to make another appeal to the Italian people for a great national loan.

Rutland County Farm Bureau.

Rutland, Dec. 7.—The annual meeting of the Rutland county farm bureau was held in this city to-day with a very enthusiastic and largely attended gathering at Old Fellows' hall. The farmers were addressed by the retiring president, A. Vail Allen of Fair Haven, County Agricultural Agent M. F. Downing of this city, Commissioner of Agriculture E. S. Brigham of St. Albans, Thomas Bradlee of the agricultural extension service at Burlington, Prof. J. L. Hills of Burlington and James P. Taylor of the Greater Vermont association. Ernest Hitchcock of Pittsford was elected president.